



## Time to chill

For students, one of the best parts of the school year winding down was the many fun activities with their peers. This included Union Pleasant Elementary School's first Field Day in June, which featured water activities, dunk tanks, a garden scavenger hunt and a Hula Hoop game. Students rotated through team-building activities on the field across the street from the school, with a backdrop of music and snow cones. PTSA helped to sponsor the day. Enjoying the camaraderie were second graders, *front from left*: Grace Beckett, Tessa Zalikowski and Jack Panfil. *Back*: Ny'lah Tillmon and Issac Mitchell.

## TOP 10



**Michael Skora**  
*Valedictorian*

**Parents:** Thomas & Lisa Skora  
**College plans:** Georgetown University (Walsh School of Foreign Service)  
**Major:** International politics

**Activities:** Student Government treasurer, DAWGS, Model UN president, Academy of Finance, varsity indoor/outdoor track & field, Key Club, Character Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society  
**Most rewarding high school experience:** Participating in bowling, kickball and other activities with DAWGS  
**Career plans:** Work with an international humanitarian aid nonprofit or governmental/intergovernmental organization, such as the State Department or United Nations



**Taylor Delmont**  
*Salutatorian*

**Parents:** Phil & Stacey Delmont  
**College plans:** University of Pittsburgh  
**Major:** Biology/pre-med  
**Activities:** Character Club,

Iacrosse, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Health Science Academy, Student Government

**Most rewarding high school experience:** Helping with the Thanksgiving Food Drive

**Career plans:** Possibly health care

*Top 10 continued on page two*



## Ellie DeLucia

**Parents:** Steve & Brooke DeLucia  
**College plans:** Kutztown University  
**Major:** Blind/visually impaired education  
**Activities:** Varsity swimming, varsity track & field, Character Club, National Honor Society, Key Club

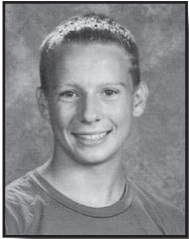
**Most rewarding high school experience:** Pole vaulting  
**Career plans:** Teacher of the blind/visually impaired



## Nicole Villarini

**Parents:** Robert & Mary Ellen Villarini  
**College plans:** University of Vermont  
**Major:** Chemistry  
**Activities:** Varsity soccer and basketball, Finance Academy, volunteering, Spanish Honor Society  
**Most rewarding high school experience:** Playing sports, developing

friendships, being in Top 10  
**Career plans:** Forensics



## Luke Wojnicki

**Parents:** Jerry & Jennifer Wojnicki  
**College plans:** SUNY Buffalo  
**Major:** Environmental engineering  
**Activities:** Varsity hockey, National Honor Society, cross country running, track & field

**Most rewarding high school experience:** Participating in sports because of the friends, coaches and life lessons that will be carried into the future  
**Career plans:** Environmental engineering in the Greater Buffalo area in order to more efficiently use water resources



## Ryan Gannon

**Parents:** Bruce & Marie Gannon  
**College plans:** Gannon University  
**Major:** Physician assistant  
**Activities:** Chorus, Women's Choir, Jazz Band, Health Science Academy, math tutoring, dancing at Performing Arts Dance Academy,

volunteering at HEART  
**Most rewarding high school experience:** Musicals — "Grease," "The Addams Family," "Sister Act," "Into the Woods"  
**Career plans:** Physician assistant in cardiothoracic surgery



## Alyssa Paskie

**Parents:** Dan & Tina Paskie  
**College plans:** University of Rochester  
**Major:** Neuroscience and a minor in Spanish  
**Activities:** Concert Chorale, Women's Choir, Donate Life vice

president, Health Science Academy, National Honor Society, Symphony Orchestra  
**Most rewarding high school experience:** Singing in chorus and working in a medical clinic in El Salvador  
**Career plans:** Pediatric cardiologist



## Brianna Walker

**Parents:** Jeffrey Walker & Annemarie Grise  
**College plans:** Canisius College  
**Major:** Biology with a focus on molecular biology/pre-med track  
**Activities:** National Honor Society, Donate Life Club, internship with

Mrs. Wellington  
**Most rewarding high school experience:** Hosting an exchange student for junior year  
**Career plans:** Doctor, possibly a surgeon



## Lily Wagner

**Parents:** David & Marci Wagner  
**College plans:** SUNY Fredonia  
**Major:** Music  
**Activities:** Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra, National Honor Society, World Language Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Chamber

Orchestra, All-County & Area All-State Orchestras, Suzuki Violinists of WNY  
**Most rewarding high school experience:** Friendships  
**Career plans:** Undecided



## Joseph Balbierz

**Parents:** Christopher & Karen Balbierz  
**College plans:** SUNY Binghamton  
**Major:** Computer engineering  
**Activities:** National Honor Society secretary, Spanish Honor Society, Character Club, Spanish Club  
**Most rewarding high school experience:** Serving as National Honor Society secretary and helping with the Character Club's Thanksgiving Food Drive

**Career plans:** Computer engineer



**Andrea R. McFall Memorial Scholarship**

Recipient Elizabeth Eberhardt with presenters AnneLouise Brown, Maeve McFall, John McFall and Brendan McFall



**Boston Lions Club Scholarship**

Recipients David Becker, Leah Cabarga and Kaylee Schiffman with presenters Kathy Whittaker and Debbie Carpenter



**Conor J. Long Memorial Scholarship**

Recipients Madison Ross, Ethan Pohlman and Kelly Mumback with presenters Meghan, Madelyne and Natale Quinn, Brian and Marybeth Long, and Brian Long



Class of 2019



**Hamburg Class of 1978 Gifts to 2019 Graduates**

Recipients Noelle Claassen, Brianna Walker and Hannah Fox with presenters Elizabeth Prezio and Scott Printup



**Friends of Mark Colmerauer Scholarship**

Recipient Lauren Chiacchia with presenters Joanne, Brian and Kate Colmerauer

*Photos from Senior Scholarship Ceremony courtesy of Lifetouch*

# SCHOLARSHIPS



Class of 2019



**Town of Hamburg Lions Club  
Incentive Awards**

Recipients Jamie Beck, Lily Joyce, Dakota Reynolds and Andrew Jarzynski with presenter Fred Wingert



**Hamburg Music Fest Scholarship**

Recipients Anna Hennessy, Jeffrey Colson, Joseph Martin and Luci Takas with presenters Luke Mumback, Mary Jo Duggan and Tyler Shaw



**Hamburg Historical Society  
Scholarship**

Recipient Nathan Henry with presenter Laura Hahn



**Hamburg STEM Award**

Recipients Catherine Streicher and Mara Gilmartin



**James Yoviene  
Memorial  
Scholarship**

Recipient Ellie DeLucia with presenter David Yoviene



**Shelley Jones  
Memorial Scholarship**

Recipient Nora Dunford with presenter Michael Gallagher



**Hamburg Alumni Foundation  
& Wall of Fame Scholarship**

Recipients Stephen Houghton, Ellie DeLucia, Samantha Waryk and Andrew Jarzynski with presenter Jeff Leyonmark



**Class of 2019**



**Lillian Brand  
Memorial Scholarship**

Recipients Grace Lauber and Seth Heeter



**Darin Skingley  
Memorial Scholarship**

Recipient Elizabeth Becker with presenter Kathy Battin



**Country Porcelain  
Artists Scholarship**

Recipient Mackenzie Agliata with presenter Laura Sabia



**Terrence C. Mack Scholarship**

Recipient Andrew Paluch with presenters Ed Osborne, Jevene Osborne, Julie Ciolek and Roger Mack

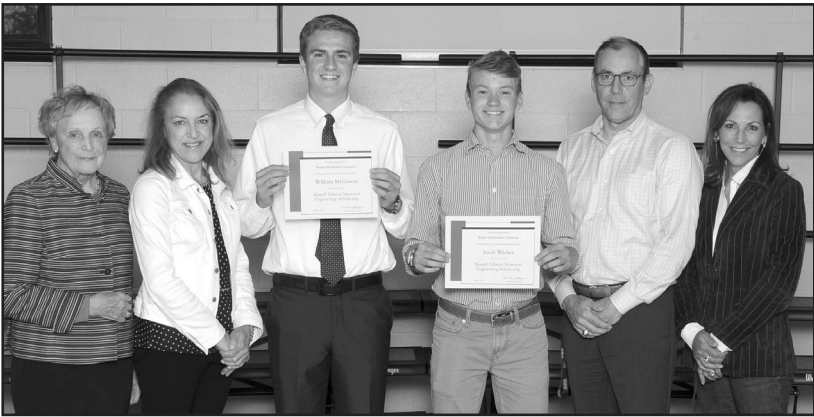


**Student Government Scholarship  
in Memory of Colleen Brunner**

Recipients Michael Skora and Elizabeth Eberhardt with presenters Lynn Sajdak and Nick Brodfuehrer

# SCHOLARSHIPS

Class of 2019



**Russell Villarini Memorial  
Engineering Scholarship**

Recipients William McGowan and Jacob Wicher  
with presenters Rosemary Villarini, Marisa Atendido, Bert Villarini  
and Carmen Kluckhohn



**Zonta Club of  
Hamburg/Orchard Park  
Scholarship**

Recipient Raechel Zielinski  
with presenter Barbara Einstein



**Bronson M. Collins  
Scholarship**

Recipient Clare Gorman  
with presenter Lisa Lerche



**Hamburg Sunrise Rotary  
Scholarship**

Recipient Luci Takas  
with presenter Michael Cornell



**Fisher Bus Scholarship**

Recipient Torey Iwanenko with presenters  
Angela Coughlin and Lindsey Nyitrai



**Colton's Journey to Liberation  
Scholarship**

Recipients Torey Iwanenko and Ava O'Hara with presenters  
Rebecca Barnell and Stephanie Fitzpatrick



**David Brinkerhoff Memorial Scholarship**

Recipient Brian Colmerauer with presenters Alaina, Madeline, Laurie and Mike Brinkerhoff

**SCHOLARSHIPS**



Class of 2019



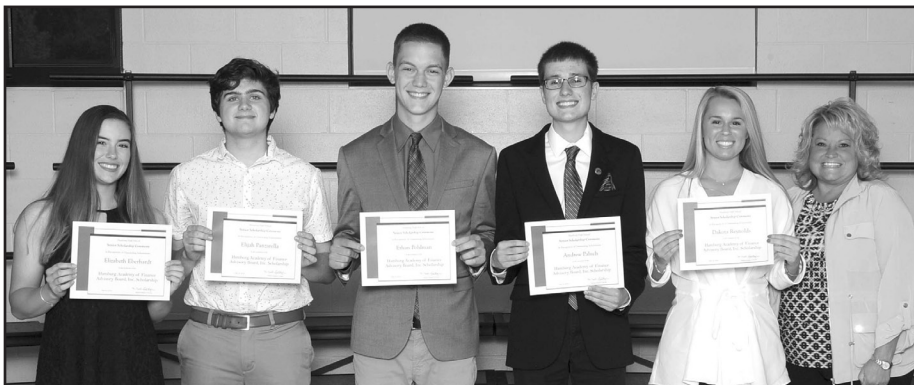
**Hamburg Central Lifetouch Scholarship**

Recipients Ellie DeLucia and Victoria Wittmeyer with presenter Dana Lamb



**Hamburg American Legion Post 527**

Recipients Kylie Essman and Michael Skora with presenter John Grotke



**Hamburg Academy of Finance Advisory Board Scholarship**

Recipients Elizabeth Eberhardt, Elijah Panzarella, Ethan Pohlman, Andrew Paluch and Dakota Reynolds with presenter Jeanne Stegmeier



**Anna Kowalski Bley Music Award**

Recipients Lily Wagner and Andrew Taylor

# SCHOLARSHIPS

Class of 2019



### **Project InVest Scholarship**

Recipients Lauren Chiacchia, Nicole Park, David Becker, Christopher Damiani, Michael Skora, Timothy Stuart, Ethan Pohlman, Andrew Paluch, William McGowan and William Cox with presenters Joe Gunning and Annette Olday



### **Brian Scholl**

### **AIDS Awareness Memorial Scholarship**

Recipient Luci Takas  
with presenter Jill Berdysiak



### **William Reichert**

### **Memorial Scholarship**

Recipient Brandon Novoa  
with presenter Michael Tylock



### **Hamburg Academic Achievement Scholarship**

Recipient Ryan Gannon  
with presenter Michael Gallagher



### **Ravel Scholarship**

Recipients Brooke Reinagel  
and Frederick Ando III



### **Rotary Club of Hamburg Scholarship**

Recipient Jacob Kinderman  
with presenter Michelle Hanley



### **Steven T. Webb Memorial Scholarship**

Recipient Timothy Stuart  
with presenter Jim Ryan





**Agnes H. & Elbert  
Hargesheimer Jr.  
Memorial Scholarship**

Recipient Taylor Fawley  
with presenter Laura Sabia



**David Hoffner  
Scholarship**

Recipient Madelyn Kruszka  
with presenter Lisa Lerche



Class of 2019



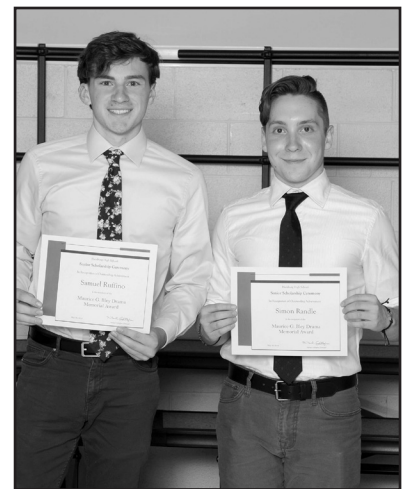
**Dan Einstein  
Memorial Scholarship**

Recipient William McGowan  
with presenters Barbara Einstein  
and Bob Ganey



**Christin Ann Bambino  
Memorial Scholarship**

Recipient Ellie DeLucia  
with presenter Greg Hawk



**Maurice G. Bley  
Drama Award**

Recipients Samuel Ruffino  
and Simon Randle



**Frieda W. Waugh  
Memorial Student Award**

Recipients Catie Nemeč  
and Sarah Hobbs



**Hamburg Administrative  
Council Scholarship**

Recipients Lily Joyce  
and Lucas Biniewski



**Hamburg Central  
Maintenance Scholarship**

Recipient Andrew Lauria  
with presenter Emily Mrozek

# SCHOLARSHIPS



Class of 2019



**Paul J. Touris Memorial Scholarship**  
 Recipient Christina Birt with presenters Matt, Mark  
 and Paul Touris



**Parent Child Connection  
 Scholarship**  
 Recipient Kendalle DiRienzo  
 with presenters Amy Kane and Nicole Dayka



**Southtowns Regional  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 Scholarship**  
 Recipient Taylor Delmont  
 with presenter Joe Gunning



**Mercedes Jules  
 Memorial  
 Scholarship**  
 Recipient Samuel Baccoli  
 with presenter Jill Berdysiak



**Lois Koss  
 Memorial Scholarship**  
 Recipient Seth Heeter  
 with Michael Gallagher. *Not pic-  
 tured:* recipient Alexandra Duma



**James L. Haley  
 Y.E.S. Scholarship**  
 Recipient Michael Skora  
 with presenter Fred Wingert



**Hamburg Track  
 Scholarship**  
 Recipients Nicholas Hafner  
 and Maria Covelli



**Meredia Credit Union Scholarship**

Recipients Dakota Reynolds, Ethan Pohlman and Nicole Park  
with presenter Annette Olday

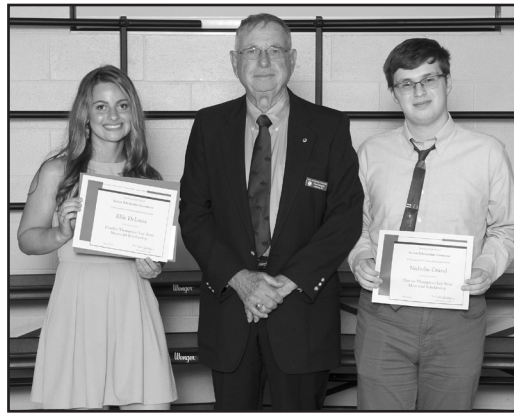


Class of 2019



**Centennial Art Center  
Scholarship**

Recipient Christian Reinagel  
with presenter Laura Sabia



**Charles Thompson/Lee Benz  
Memorial Scholarship from  
Town of Hamburg Lions Club**

Recipients Ellie DeLucia and Nicholas  
Grand with presenter Fred Wingert



**Mary Gorman  
Memorial Scholarship**

Recipient Clare Miller  
with presenter Colleen Hall



**James R. Owen  
Scholar Athlete  
Cross Country Award**

Recipients Lukas Marcin and  
Raechel Zielinski



**Student Government Scholarship  
in Memory of Conor Long**

Recipients Madison Ross and Samantha Vail  
with presenters Lynn Sajdak  
and Nick Brodfuehrer



**Town of Hamburg  
Police Benevolent  
Assoc. Scholarship**

Recipient Haley Martin  
with presenter Anne Gilhooly

# SCHOLARSHIPS

Class of 2019



**UFCW Local One Scholarship**  
 Recipients William Cox Jr. and Lily Joyce  
 with presenter Michael Tylock



**Hamburg Central PTSA Scholarship**  
 Recipients Ethan Pohlman and Kylie Essman  
 with presenter Dana Lamb

**NYS Scholarship for Academic Excellence:**  
 Taylor Delmont, Ellie DeLucia,  
 Ryan Gannon, Alyssa Paskie, Michael Skora, Nicole Villarini & Luke Wojnicki



**Wegmans Scholarship**  
 Recipients Leah Cabarga, Nathan McMillen and Torey Iwanenko  
 with presenter Julie Lazzaro-Thompson



**Karen Farrell Memorial Scholarship**  
 Recipient Elizabeth Eberhardt  
 with presenters Julie LoTempio and Jim Farrell



**NYSCOPBA Scholarship**  
 Recipients Hannah Webb  
 and Tricia Willcox



**Southern Erie County Counselors Assoc. Scholarship**  
 Recipient Brigid McKeone  
 with presenter Anne Gilhooly



**HTA Marcella Fugle Memorial Scholarship**  
 Recipients Kristen Bacher, Brian Colmerauer and Victoria Wittmeyer with presenter Diane Skovenski



Class of 2019



**Jason Lee Pickel Memorial Scholarship**  
 Recipient Christian Reinagel  
 with presenters Bob, Aaron and Stacie Pickel



**Mark Prockton Memorial Scholarship**  
 Recipient Luke Wojnicki  
 with presenter Michael Gallagher



**Matthew Adler Memorial Scholarship**  
 Recipient Lauren Nikiel  
 with presenter Thomas McGowan



**Amos J. and Leigh Hunt Minkel Student Award**  
 Recipient Joseph Balbierz  
 with presenter Michael Tylock.  
 Not pictured: recipient Alyssa Paskie



**Montgomery Family Foundation STEM Award Scholarship**  
 Recipient Grace Zdrojewski  
 with presenter Laura Sabia



**H Bulldogs** **Varsity H Club Leadership**

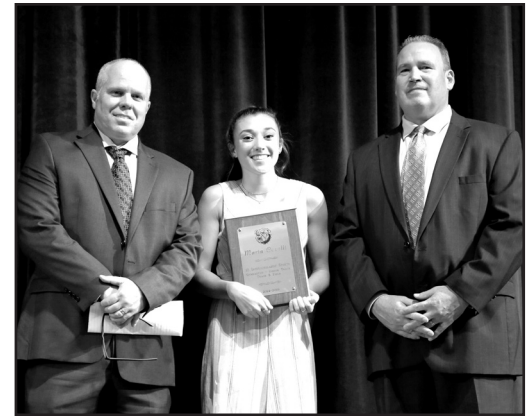
Front, from left: K. Storey, L. Bogner, M. Ross, L. McDonnell, A. Hennessy, J. Golembiewski, C. Schultz. Row 2: S. Vail, E. O'Connor, H. Fox, S. Zittomer, M. Kruszka, L. Wojnicki, J. Haberman. Row 3: E. Pohlman, H. Webb, I. Cervoni, N. Hafner, N. Park, L. Meyer. Row 4: B. Kuppel, J. Couzens, B. Colmerauer, L. Doyle, J. Pavlovich, J. Skelley, D. Miskell, K. Borrello, W. McGowan



**H Bulldogs** **Varsity Cheerleading**  
**2019 Americheer International Champion**

Front, from left: H. Schoenhardt, C. Miller, E. Piazza, A. Reardon, G. Sanchioni, O. Sauda, J. Seereiter, B. Borysewicz. Back: E. Yeager, K. Kuwik, M. Hayes, G. Gregoire, J. Giannicchi, H. Fox, H. Staniszewski. Not pictured: G. Grogan

BULLDOGS  
**2019**  
Athletic Awards



**H Bulldogs** **Outstanding Senior**

From left: Patrick Cauley, Maria Covelli, Michael Gallagher



**H Bulldogs** **Cross Training Athletics**  
**Character Award**

From left: Mike Masters, Nick Hafner, Elizabeth Eberhardt, Patrick Cauley



**H Bulldogs** **Outstanding**  
**Scholar Athlete**

From left: Patrick Cauley, Ellie DeLucia, Michael Skora, Michael Gallagher



BULLDOGS  
**2019**



**Athletic Awards**

H

Bulldogs

**Most Improved**

Front, from left: S. Waryk, S. Bunn, G. Miller, G. Sanchioni, J. Seereiter, M. Strozyk. Row 2: C. Gonter, A. Borzelleri, N. Pohlman, B. McGee, O. Palinski, J. Troiano. Row 3: M. Harrison, M. Cole, N. Neudeck, Z. Eisenmann, Q. Farrell, W. Sanchioni, N. Capasso, J. Evenden.



H

Bulldogs

**Director's Key - Outstanding Senior**

Front, from left: E. Eberhardt, H. Gannon, E. Moscato. Row 2: M. Covelli, S. Baccoli, K. Cook, L. Marcin, C. Miller, H. Fox. Row 3: E. Kisker, N. Dunford, L. Chiacchia, C. Steiner, J. Wicher, N. Villarini. Row 4: J. Couzens, M. McDonnell, K. McDermott, L. Reczek, B. Johnson, A. Hubert, J. Hutchinson, N. Hafner, N. Capasso.



H

Bulldogs

**Varsity  
"H" Club  
Scholarship**

Steve Chaffee  
& Madison Ross



H

Bulldogs

**HCS D  
Sportsmanship**

Front, from left: R. Forrest, M. Dellavella, A. O'Hara, B. Johnson. Row 2: E. Herbst, L. Cabarga, E. Tripp, A. Kane, S. Zitomer, E. DeLucia, J. Burke, T. Delmont. Row 3: M. Skora, J. Pavlovich, L. Wojnicki, N. Davidson, A. Lauria, L. Mayer, A. Hvisdak. Row 4: Z. Eisenmann, M. Hayes, K. Miskell, C. Miller, M. Robillard, C. McDonnell, L. Reczek.

**EMT TEAMWORK** — Students in Hamburg High School's Emergency Medical Training (EMT) class worked with local fire departments and emergency squads to sharpen their skills as a team to treat potential victims at accident scenes and to learn how to use auto extrication equipment to gain access to seriously injured patients. This activity, hosted at Hamburg Volunteer Fire Dept. in May, was the culmination of efforts that students have put forth in the EMT program throughout the school year. Assisting were Boston Emergency Squad, Eden Emergency Squad, Armor



Fire Dept., North Boston Fire Dept., Scranton Fire Dept., Lake View Fire Dept., Big Tree Fire Dept., Lake Shore Fire Dept. and Woodlawn Fire Dept. Several of the cars used in the training were donated by Joe's Auto Service.



On the hood is Madison Ross. In back: Jordan Guthrie, Eleanor Gow, Clare Miller, Angel Craver, Hannah Baker and Taylor Delmont.



**DRONE STEM COMPETITION** — Hamburg High School Health Science Academy students won first place as a team in the UB Mini Med League Drone STEM event held at the UB School

of Medicine and Biomedical Science in May. Students had to fly a drone simulator, as well as demonstrate suturing and laparoscopic surgery skills. Senior Grace Zdrojewski (pictured) earned first place in the all-around individual skills competition.



Back, from left: Jaden Troiano, Jacob Walters, Evan Herbst, Jocelyn Smith, Maya McKeever, Leah Jarzynski, Zephyr Brown. Front: Leah Iwanitzki, Chika Simon, Madeline Della Vella, Logan Kaminski, Melissa Kern, Latin teacher Catherine Nicastro.

## Latin students excel at Certamen

Twelve Hamburg High School and Middle School Latin students represented the district in the 2019 New York State Junior Classical League Spring Fling Certamen (competition) at Geneva High School in May.

The following students won ribbons on academic testing —

Seventh grader Logan Kaminski: second place, Vocabulary, Roman Civilization; first, Pentathlon

### Latin II

Chika Simon: first, Pentathlon; second, Roman Civilization, Derivatives, Mythology; third, Vocabulary

Leah Iwanitzki: second, Vocabulary; third, Derivatives

Jacob Walters: third, Mythology

Jaden Troiano: first, Vocabulary, Derivatives, Roman Civilization; second, Pentathlon

### Latin III

Madeline Della Vella: second, Roman Civilization; third, Vocabulary, Derivatives, Roman Mythology, Pentathlon

**Sporting:** Evan Herbst, first, Basketball Shootout

In the overall competitive certamen rounds (the main event), Logan Kaminski earned third place as a team of one; Latin II students Leah Jarzynski, Melissa Kern, Chika Simon and Zephyr Brown earned third; Latin II students Jaden Troiano, Leah Iwanitzki and Jacob Walters, earned first.

## Drug & Alcohol Forum for High School parents scheduled for Aug. 6

The district's mandatory Drug & Alcohol Parent Forum will be offered on Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hamburg High School cafeteria, 4111 Legion Dr. One adult per household is required to attend the forum in order for his/her High School student to participate in any school special event or sports. Once met, the requirement is valid for the student's High School career.

Parents may also meet the requirement by attending the forum at Frontier High School on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m.



# **Congratulations**

## **to our 2018-19 retirees**

*Thank you for your dedicated service*

<b>Rose Cruver</b> .....	Middle School .....	teacher aide .....	16 yrs.
<b>Jeanne Curry</b> .....	Information Services .....	senior clerk typist .....	19 yrs.
<b>Michael Damico</b> .....	High School.....	technology teacher.....	16 yrs.
<b>Carolyn Durni</b> .....	Middle School .....	special ed. teacher.....	38 yrs.
<b>Maureen Garra</b> .....	Armor Elementary .....	special ed. teacher.....	22 yrs.
<b>Joyce Hoefner</b> .....	High School.....	teacher aide .....	22 yrs.
<b>Daniel Kaszubowski Jr.</b> .....	.....	maintenance mechanic .....	24 yrs.
<b>Cynthia Kelly</b> .....	Armor Elementary .....	teacher .....	29 yrs.
<b>Paula Litwin</b> .....	Boston Valley Elementary .....	computer aide .....	26 yrs.
<b>James Martinez</b> .....	Boston Valley Elementary .....	principal.....	15 yrs.
<b>Charlene McGowan</b> .....	High School.....	teacher aide .....	18 yrs.
<b>Lawrence Murtha</b> .....	Middle School .....	technology teacher.....	24 yrs.
<b>Rose Naeger</b> .....	Union Pleasant Elementary .....	speech teacher .....	23 yrs.
<b>Mollie Pietrosanto</b> .....	Armor Elementary/SS. Peter & Paul .....	COTA .....	25 yrs.
<b>Barbara Quinn</b> .....	High School.....	cook manager .....	31 yrs.
<b>Rodney Roll</b> .....	Middle School .....	head custodian.....	39 yrs.
<b>Marilyn Rozler</b> .....	Armor Elementary .....	senior clerk typist .....	19 yrs.
<b>Judith Shaughnessy</b> .....	SS. Peter & Paul .....	special ed. teacher.....	21 yrs.
<b>Barbara Wagner</b> .....	High School.....	school nurse.....	27 yrs.
<b>Kenneth Wells</b> .....	.....	motor vehicle operator .....	38 yrs.

## **2019 Wall of Fame inductees announced**

The Hamburg Alumni Foundation invites the community to join in recognizing favorite teachers, former classmates, friends and athletes from the “glory years” at the 2019 Wall of Fame Ceremony. The ceremony takes place on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at Michael’s Catering & Banquets, 4885 Southwestern Blvd.

The following inductees will be honored:

### ***Sports Legends***

William McClelland, Class of 1936  
 Lyneve Lauria, Class of 1992  
 Danielle Hover, Class of 2007  
 Casey Derkacz, Class of 2007  
 Will Cole, Class of 2009  
 Joe Whalen, Class of 2009

### ***Distinguished Educators***

Charles Teague  
 Jim Cleveland

### ***Distinguished Alumni***

Richard Aquila, Class of 1964  
 Robert Fleming, Class of 1968  
 Joan Calkins, MD, Class of 1971  
 Doug Smith, Class of 1976  
 Beth Moses, Class of 1984

### ***Team of Distinction***

1976 Section VI – Division II Championship Football Team



Hamburg High School graduate and Channel 2 sportscaster Heather Prusak will serve as master of ceremonies. Tickets, which include dinner, are \$35 per adult; \$20, per child 12 and under. They are available as of Sept. 1 at Lockwood’s Greenhouse and J.P. Fitzgerald’s. See the Foundation website at [hamburgalumnifoundation.com](http://hamburgalumnifoundation.com) for information or to nominate future inductees.

# **New Pupil Services Director brings wealth of experience**

Will oversee services for students with special needs

The Hamburg Central School District announces the appointment of Jennifer Barker as Director of Pupil Services. The appointment became effective July 1.

Mrs. Barker had served as Hamburg Middle School Principal for the past nine years. To transition into the new role, she worked with



**Jennifer Barker**

Interim Pupil Services Director James Maloney, visited in-district special education programs and met with Pupil Services staff. The staff includes special education teachers, school counselors, psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech pathologists.

Superintendent Michael Cornell said that Mrs. Barker stood out among the applicants for the Director's post based on her knowledge, experience and accomplishments in a variety of capacities since joining the district in 1998. That back-

ground has prepared her well for the responsibilities ahead in overseeing resources and services for students with special needs.

"Her proven experience as a leader who is expert, visible and engaged; her commitment to being a true servant leader to the professionals in Pupil Services; and her constant and intense focus on assuring modern learning experiences for all children made it clear that she is the right person to serve as the next leader of the department," Mr. Cornell said.

"We couldn't be more excited to have Mrs. Barker join the Pupil Services Department Team," added Colleen Kaney, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Curriculum & Instruction. "Mrs. Barker's knowledge and commitment to the Hamburg Schools and community will allow her to make a smooth transition that will focus on the success of our team and students with special needs."

In her new role, Mrs. Barker will provide leadership in specialized instruction, individualized education program (IEP) development and special education regulations.

"As the leader of Pupil Services, it is my job to ensure that specialized instruction is tailored to meet the specific needs of our unique learners," Mrs. Barker said.

One of her first-year goals is to shape a unified, Grades K-12 special education department and to collaborate with the Pupil Services team to create a learning plan.

Before becoming a Principal in 2010, Mrs. Barker served as Assistant Principal at the Middle School and Union Pleasant Elementary. During her tenure, she was also Director of Camp Hamburg and teacher on special assignment in The Learning Center. She started with the district as an earth science teacher at the High School.

She holds a master's degree in education/administration and supervision from Niagara University, master's in education from SUNY Buffalo, bachelor's in secondary education/earth science from Buffalo State College and bachelor's in environmental studies from SUNY Buffalo.

# **Students' mobile app lends emotional support through technology**

A mobile app developed by two students in Hamburg High School's Academy of Finance is one of five winners in the 2019 Lenovo Scholar Network Mobile App Development Competition. The "enCourageU" app developed by sophomores Nevada Pohlman and Abby Kane is designed to provide inspira-



**Abby Kane, left, and Nevada Pohlman**

tion and motivation to help people work through stressful situations. They did the project as part of a Microsoft Computer Course instructed by business teacher Diana Munich. The students spent months designing, coding, developing and testing their mobile app.

"A big district focus right now is visible learning and we felt it was important to enhance the Academy with new curriculum that is relevant to our students," Mrs. Munich said.

"We couldn't be prouder of the topic the girls chose for their mobile app with all of the work the Hamburg district is doing on mental health education," added Academy Director Kristin Lawrence.

The winning teams will present their apps at NAF Next, a professional development conference in Detroit, MI, in July. Lenovo is a global Fortune 500 company that provides innovative consumer, commercial and enterprise technology. The competition was initiated to encourage interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) while honing the high-tech skills needed in today's job market.

# **Monthly bottle/can drive continues through summer**

The monthly Saturday bottle & can drive at Hamburg High School to benefit athletics continues this summer and into next school year. The drop-off is from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the school, 4111 Legion Dr., on the following dates: July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 8, March 7, April 4, May 9 (benefits Post Prom), June 13.



**PYTHON PROGRAMMER** — Hamburg High School sophomore Sam Ruggiero, pictured with Principal Michael Gallagher, was first place winner in Carnegie Mellon University's Python programming language competition for Unit 1. The High School used a unit from the university's online curriculum in its new Python course this year. The platform allowed students to make graphics using the Python language. Sam created a drawing of the comic book character Deadpool as his entry.

## Music Showcase yields 14 trophies for Middle School

After preparing for months, the Hamburg Middle School Music Department brought home 14 trophies from the Music Showcase Festival at Cedar Point. The Select Chorus, Honors Chorus and Select Strings performed at Margareta High School in Ohio for a team of judges.

The 6th Grade Select Chorus won first place in its category. The chorus also won three solo awards: Alexis Billi, Elise Boettcher and Jordan Fuhrman.

Select Strings won first place in its category, as well as the Overall Instrumental Award. The group also won section awards for violin, viola, cello and bass. Maija Kull, Brad Tobin and Hannah Tomasulo won solo awards for Select Strings.

Honors Chorus won first place in its category, as well as the Overall Choral Award.

These students were directed by Amy Hartman, Sharon Meholick and Rhonda Wieder.



**YEARBOOK HONORS** — High School yearbook advisor and French teacher Wendy Winters was commended at the May School Board meeting for being the “heart and soul” of that publication for the past 25 years, as well as her mentorship of students. She is pictured with Superintendent Michael Cornell.

## As state honoree, Nicole Dayka is praised for service to families

Nicole Dayka, Youth-at-Risk Coordinator for Hamburg Central Schools and the Town of Hamburg, has been named as a 2019 New York State Women of Distinction for the 60th Senate District by Sen. Chris Jacobs.

At a ceremony marking the honor, Mrs. Dayka was praised for a lifetime of professional service, volunteerism and advocacy that has touched the lives of countless children and families.

“As Hamburg’s Youth-at-Risk Coordinator, Nicole has been a source of strength, guidance and hope for so many children and families in her community and has been instrumental in the Hamburg School District being recognized as one of the most innovative in the country for its support of students with mental health issues,” Sen. Jacobs said.

The Women of Distinction program recognizes the contributions of New York women who exemplify personal excellence, courage, selflessness, integrity and perseverance.

“While Nicole is an incredible resource for our school district staff, one of the most striking elements of the service she provides to the families of our community is the humility



**Nicole Dayka and Sen. Chris Jacobs**

with which she offers it,” said Superintendent Michael Cornell.

Mrs. Dayka has worn many hats in her service to Hamburg, including Co-President of the Parent Child Connection, Coordinator of Hamburg Youth Court and Chair of the Special Education PTSA. She also is credited with expanding and enhancing Hamburg Youth Bureau programs. She serves on the Erie County Opioid Epidemic Task Force and Rapid Evaluation Appropriate Placement subcommittee, where she uses her experience as a mental health trainer to help combat the opioid crisis.

Motivated by her son Carson’s experience with chronic illness, some of Mrs. Dayka’s most impactful work in the community stems from her membership on the Family Advisory Council and depth of her volunteer work at Oishei Children’s Hospital. She helped create the Carson Dayka Travel Fund, which supports Ronald McDonald house and patients and families travelling from out of town or to the hospital for treatment. She has had a long association with Stone’s Buddies, which supports families coping with chronic and life-threatening illness.



Administration Building  
5305 Abbott Rd.  
Hamburg, N.Y. 14075

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## Boston Valley inclusive playground leaps forward with grant

Hamburg Central’s plan to transform its four elementary school playgrounds into areas where children of all physical abilities can enjoy activities together is taking a leap forward with receipt of a \$50,000 matching grant toward revamping the Boston Valley Elementary School outdoor play space.

The grant is from KOMPAN, a Texas-based provider of playground and outdoor sport/fitness solutions.

Boston Valley’s current playground was installed in early 2000 and includes a slide, climbing wall and elevated walkways. Some of the playground’s original elements have already been removed for safety and what remains shows signs of wear and tear, and lacks variety. Some of the ex-

isting equipment will be removed and replaced with new inclusive pieces that motivate play and movement for users of all abilities. Pea gravel will also be replaced with surfacing that is safer and accessible for children with limited mobility.

With a covered picnic area and raised garden beds located nearby, Boston Valley’s outdoor recreation space is used by students for activities during school hours and by families outside the school day.

The total cost of the Boston Valley project is estimated at \$235,000. In order to cover the cost of upgrading all of its elementary playgrounds, Hamburg Central has partnered with the Hamburg Alumni Foundation to combine community support with district funding.

*\* Save the Date \**

### THE BULLDOG DASH

*In Celebration of Conor Long*

5k Fun Run/Walk  
Sunday, Oct. 6 9:30 a.m.  
Hamburg High School, 4111 Legion Dr.  
\* New this year — Start & end on Howe Field\*

## School Board member’s service on behalf of children recognized

Hamburg School Board member David Yoviene was honored by the Erie County Association of School Boards (ECASB) in June for his service on behalf of children. He received the Laura M. Burns Advocacy for Children Award for demonstrating leadership, standing up for principles that “put kids first” and taking actions benefiting children.

Mr. Yoviene has been a School Board member for six years and is also active with the PTSA & Parent Child Connection Committee.

Both he and board member Robbin List also received a “Rising Star” award from the association at its annual recognition dinner. Mr. List has been a board member for the past 4½ years. The award recognizes their completion of ECASB training programs and ongoing commitment to expanding their knowledge of issues in education, governance and best practices.



**D. Yoviene**